MANCUNICON

Eastercon 2016

Words from the Chair

Eastercon as a Community

So, I'm sitting here on a train to Manchester on a grey, gloomy February Saturday. I happen to know that there's another group holding an Eastercon committee meeting today, so at least 20 people are wending their way across the country to those committee meetings. This weekend, as any weekend, hundreds of people all over the country will be reading their Eastercon, Worldcon, other convention email, making calls, working on websites and spreadsheets - and this is a weekend when there is no actual convention*.

We're all volunteers. For Eastercons, everyone except our guests pays their own membership, transport and hotels; there's a lot of time and money being put in for the pleasure of working an Easter or August weekend. I remember the story of a Turkish fan who took leave from his military service and hitch-hiked across Europe to attend the 1995 Glasgow Worldcon. When he got there, he volunteered to help and spent large chunks of the weekend guarding a door. When asked if he was enjoying himself, he said that he was, he was used to guarding doors, but it was very different not having a gun…

We are not a literary festival, where some people get paid for their time and others are told to treat it as a promotional activity. We are a community, a group of participants; we're all donating our time, our energy, our money to an event we all own; that's what makes an Eastercon special, and keeps it going from year to year and decade to decade.

Chairing an Eastercon has been a difficult and testing challenge, and we're not done yet. But I have a real sense of doing something

worthwhile, of contributing to a community I care about, so I'm glad I said yes when asked to get involved in Mancunicon.

And I am now asking you to be involved as well, each in your own way. Onwards to Manchester!

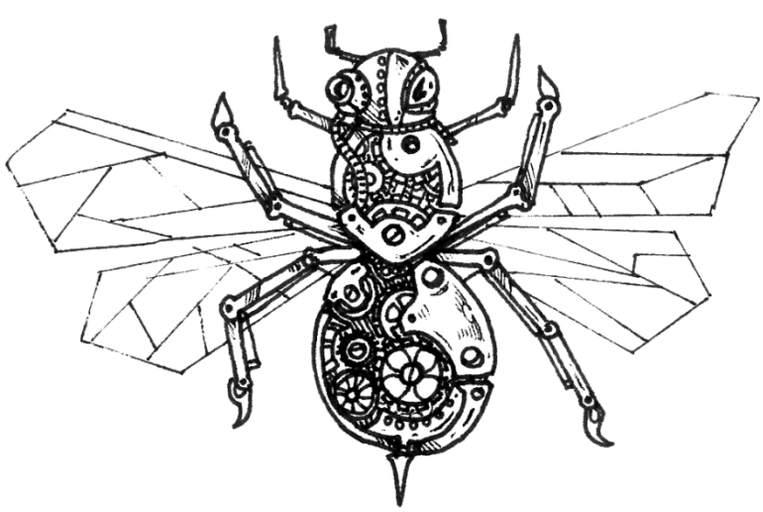
Pat McMurray, Chair
chair@mancunicon.org.uk

*Actually that's not true, the FilkCon is in Colchester, but it was such a good line I left it in anyway...

Code of Conduct

The Mancunicon Code of Conduct is available on the convention website. It covers Behaviour, Children at Mancunicon, Photography & Recording, the Weapons policy, Mobile Phones, as well as having your Badge prominently visible at all times.

It also introduces the role Mancunicon Independent Ombudsman which has been taken up by Alice Lawson. She will have an independent role to investigate and manage complaints by members, especially any against the Convention, Committee or Chair. The email mancunicon-ombudsman@googlegroups.com will not be accessible by any other member of staff or committee.



Transport

Mancunicon takes place at the Hilton Deansgate Hotel
303 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 4LQ.

Travel within the City Centre:
Other than getting a taxi or walking, options from different parts of the city centre to the convention include the tram to Deansgate-Castlefield, train to Deansgate Station or via the free Metroshuttle bus #2. More information is available at the Transport for Greater Manchester website: www.tfgm.com.

Tram:
The closest tram stop is Deansgate-Castlefield. Single adult fare £1.20 within the City zone. Walking distance from the tram stop to the Hilton is less than 350 metres.

Train:
Manchester Piccadilly (MAN) is the mainline station to head for as Victoria (MCV) is closed over the Easter weekend, but the closest station to the Hilton is Deansgate (DGT). If a direct train to Deansgate is not an option, you can get a train from Piccadilly to Deansgate (£1.70). Trams are available from both Piccadilly and Victoria and if you have a train ticket with the destination as Manchester CTLZ you can use that on the trams within the City zone. Walking distance from Deansgate station to the Hilton less than 350 metres.

Metroshuttle Bus:
There is a FREE service within the city centre. To get to the hotel you will need the #2 bus. On bank holidays the frequency is every 12 minutes but the service only runs until 18:00. There are various stops around the city centre, including Piccadilly station and Victoria station. Nearest bus stops to the Hilton are outside Deansgate station or on Liverpool Road, to the west of the hotel.

Public Transport Links

Photo: Melica Smith

Looking west along Whitworth Street West the sign for Deansgate Station can be seen on the left of the photograph, the south side of the street, near the bus stop - Deansgate Station. The tram stop, Deansgate-Castlefield, is on the north side of the street (right hand side of the photograph). The bridge connects the tram and train stations, and there are lifts at both ends. The hotel is in the Beetham Tower which can be seen to the right of the photograph behind the Ark. It is best approached from the position of the photographer by going under the bridge to the end of the road and turning right so you can head north up Deansgate where the entrance to the hotel is less than 150 metres on the right.

Travelling from Manchester Airport

Train direct to Deansgate station journey time is approximately 25 minutes (single adult fare £4.30).

Tram to Deansgate-Castlefield (change at Cornbrook) journey time is approximately 45 minutes (single adult fare £4.20).

Taxi journey time is approximately 15 minutes (fare approximately £20).

Car - if you are hiring a car then you will be travelling from the south as the airport is close to the M56 motorway.

Travelling by Car

From the south:
Turn off at J19 of the M6 on to the A556. Join the M56 following signs to Manchester. Continue on the M56 until it becomes the A5103 (the M56 branches off to the left at this point) The A5103 will take you directly to the city centre. Continue on the A5103 (there is a roundabout that will take you under the A57(M) but the A5103 continues on the other side of the roundabout). Turn left at Great Bridgwater Street. The Hilton is on the left hand side.

From the north:
From M61, M66 or M62 follow signs to Manchester and turn onto the M60 (follow signs directing ring road W or W&S) . Turn off M60 at junction 12 on to the M602. At the end of M602 continue straight on to the A57. Continue on the A57 until you get a slip road for the A56. Take the first exit at the roundabout signposted Deansgate. Continue on Deansgate until you see the Hilton on your right hand side.

Parking:
The official hotel car park is the 24-hour, 519 space NCP one called Gt Northern Warehouse 1 at M3 4EE. The code, NCPHIL1, will provide a 40% discount on bookings within the period 23rd to 29th March, so 24 hours of parking will be £12. That code will also work at the neighbouring Gt Northern Warehouse 2 as well. Details: www.ncp.co.uk/find-a-car-park/car-parks/manchester-gt-northern-warehouse-1.

There is also Park Avenue Parking (130 spaces) on Albion Street which is about 200 metres from Hilton and is half way between the Hilton and Jurys Inn. It is open 07:00 - 23:00 but overnight parking is allowed. See: www.parkavenueparking.co.uk.

There is a car park opposite the hotel at 386 Deansgate, M3 4LB, run by Euro Car Parks, but it just has 40 spaces.

Membership

Type	FULL	1 DAY Fri/Mon	1 DAY Sat/Sun
Adult attending	£75	£20	£30
Unwaged: jobseekers / full-time students	£45	£10	£12
Young adult (13-17)	£45	£10	£12
Child (4-12)	£30	£5	£8
Infant (0-3)	FREE	FREE	FREE

Age is at start of convention, 25 March 2016.

Please note that **there will be no memberships available on the day** at the convention. All memberships, of any kind, must be purchased in advance, so if you have friends or family that want to come but are not yet members then please get them to act now.

If we reach our limit, we will have to close to new members immediately. Otherwise, online memberships will be available until one week before the convention starts; if you are joining by post, your envelope should be received by us no later than two weeks before the convention. We will post reminders about the deadlines nearer the time.

You can join online, or you can download and print a membership form from www.mancunicon.org.uk/membership and join by post. If doing so, make your cheque payable to 'Mancunicon' and send it, together with your completed form, to:
Mancunicon, 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S2 3HQ.

We cannot provide refunds for memberships, but, if you buy a membership and then find that you are unable to attend, you are welcome to transfer your membership to someone else. Please contact membership@mancunicon.org.uk if you wish to do this, giving us both your details and the details of the person to whom you want to transfer your membership.

A membership list can be found at: www.mancunicon.org.uk.

Registration

Registration will be in the hotel foyer on the ground floor, and will be open from 09:00 on Friday. If registration is closed when you arrive, you will need to go to Operations on the first floor, which is also the place to go for any non-registration related issues.

Access

All of the rooms in our main hotel have now been sold. Apologies if you have an access issue and have not been able to book a room in the convention hotel. Please email access@mancunicon.org.uk and we can put you on a waiting list for any cancellations, and tell us a bit about your needs so that, if rooms do become available, we can determine if they would be suitable for you.

The lift for the Deansgate-Castlefield tram stop, near the hotel is now operational. If you are taking the train into Manchester Piccadilly, it might be a good option for you. Also a great way to go exploring!

Have you done your packing list yet? Remember to pack your necessities (any medication or special equipment,etc) as well as your ribbon collection, special dice and beer mugs!

Volunteering

Volunteers - We need you!

Everyone involved in the organisation and running of an Eastercon is a volunteer. In order to help things run as smoothly as possible, we welcome members who wish to volunteer to help out before, during and after the convention.

Volunteering can be a fun way to get to know new people and perhaps try something you haven't done before. We also reward our volunteers with groats which can be exchanged for food and beverages at the hotel.

If you have never volunteered before, we will be running a volunteer/gopher briefing session on the Friday, so come along to find out what is involved.

Help with setting up the convention prior to opening would be greatly appreciated. This can include moving furniture, setting up the art show, door security and helping with the registration desk. If you are available on the Wednesday from 17:00 or any time Thursday, please go to the Business Centre on the first floor, which once we are up and running will become Operations.

We also would be grateful for assistance taking down the convention Monday evening/Tuesday morning.

Prior to the convention you can get in touch via: volunteers@mancunicon.org.uk.
At the convention look out for the volunteers' meeting on the programme, or you can drop by the Gopher Hole or Operations Room (see the convention map that will be found in the ReadMe you get when you register).

Hotel

Latest Information

Food Options:
In addition to their usual restaurant offering from Friday 25th lunchtime to Monday 28th evening there will be special convention food options supplied by the hotel. Lunch will available be 11:30 - 13:30 and evening meals 17:00 - 20:00 with a guide price of £5 - 6. Late night food will be available 23:00 - 00:30 with a guide price of £3 per item. Snacks will be available ALL DAY from the bar, e.g. sandwiches from £3, crisps / chocolate bars / fruit £1, tea & coffee £1.50.

Pool Policy:
Normal pool operating times are 06:00 - 22:00. However, on the Bank Holidays of Friday 25th and Monday 28th the hours will be slightly reduced to 08:00 - 20:00.
Children (under 16s) are allowed in at any time, however they must be accompanied by an adult (over 18). One adult cannot be responsible for more than 2 children.
There is a spa, run by Claretys, in the hotel, and treatments can be booked via 0161 870 1789, info@claretys.co.uk or their website: www.claretys.co.uk.

Bare Feet:
Hotel policy is for no bare feet in the hotel public areas, aside from the pool area.

Programme

We have a lot of interesting things planned for Mancunicon's Programme, starting with the Opening Ceremony at 12:00 on the Friday.

One of our guests is organising a quiz, another is organising a cooking demonstration. We have two plays in the evening; a Pizza and Movie night you'll be hearing more about soon; a couple of fascinating plays; Rocky Horror and Frozen as they're meant to be seen - in a noisy singing mob; ancient music; modern filking; some serious discussion and feedback on the Future of Eastercons.

We'll also have the usual things; parties; an Art Auction; a Fan Fund Auction; very strong literary and science programmes; some interesting talks; loads of workshops on many things; Kaffeeklatsches and Werewolf; board games and a LARP; launch parties and bid parties - the usual fun and slightly chaotic Eastercon.

The Schedule will be on the website shortly; invites are about to start going out; we're very nearly there. The most up to date details will be at: www.mancunicon.org.uk/whats-on/programme.

We look forward to seeing you there; we look to forward to your participation; we hope you have a great time.

The Programme Team, Mancunicon
programme@mancunicon.org.uk

Friday Night is Pizza & Movie Night

Mancunicon will be showing *Flash Gordon* the evening of Friday 25th. To accompany this there will be a pizza ordering system put in place that will be linked to via: www.mancunicon.org.uk/whats-on/programme.

Jodrell Bank

Group Trip - Thursday 24th

Mancunicon's very own Ambassador has organised a trip to the Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre the day before the convention starts. If you want to go he needs to know by Sunday 28th February in order to make the arrangements.

The plan is to gather in the reception area of the convention hotel (the Hilton Deansgate) in the late morning. From there walk to Deansgate railway station (about 350 metres) to get a train to Manchester Piccadilly and change there for a train to Goostrey which is the nearest station to Jodrell Bank. From there a pre-booked taxi will have been arranged to cover the final couple of miles to. The return journey will be the reverse timed to get back to the hotel around 18:00.

An adult train ticket will be a little over £10 for the Deansgate to Goostrey return, but group discounts may be obtainable depending on numbers.

The cost of a full price entry (including gift aid) to the Centre is £7.50, but concessionary and group discounts are available. Further details about the Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre and all its attractions can be found at www.jodrellbank.net.

It is a Phone Free Zone as the signals emitted by such gadgets interfere with their observations. Please be prepared to switch off all mobile phones and electronic devices during your visit.

To express an interest or get further details, please email davelally@outlook.com.
Please note that Dave will require a payment by March 6th to book a place, and that no refunds will be given if you pay and do not turn up.

Guests of Honour

2016 Update

Aliette de Bodard:

The Death of Aiguillon, a short story set in the universe of *The House of Shattered Wings*, was published in *A Fantasy Medley 3*, ISBN: 9781596067677. The Xuya story *In Blue Lily's Wake*, was in *Meeting Infinity*, ISBN: 9781781083796, another Xuya story, *A Salvaging of Ghosts,* has been sold to **Beneath Ceaseless Skies.**

Aliette will also be a Guest of Honour at this year's Eurocon that is being held in Barcelona, 4 - 6 November, see: www.eurocon2016.org.

David L. Clements:
His short story collection, *Disturbed Universes*, will be published by NewCon Press at Mancunicon. ISBN: 9781910935095.
An Industrial Growth, a short story was published in the January/February of **Analog Science Fiction and Fact**, and, the NESFA anthology *Conspiracy!* published at Boskone in February contains another of his stories.

Ian McDonald:
His next novel, *Luna: Wolf Moon*, is listed for publication in October 2016 by Gollancz. ISBN: 9781473202269. This is the follow-up to last year's, *Luna: New Moon*, with a third book in the series expected in 2018.

Sarah Pinborough:
13 Minutes, her latest novel, was published by Gollancz in February. ISBN: 9781473214033.

Ian McDonald

An appreciation by Nicholas Whyte

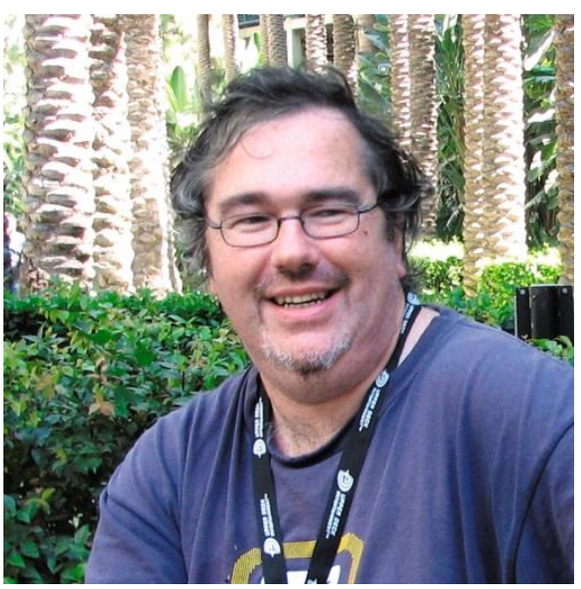
You can take the boy out of Belfast, but you can't take Belfast out of the boy. Though born here in Manchester, Ian McDonald has lived in Belfast for fifty years, since he was a small child, and the underpinnings of his work are the perpetually intertwined interfaces between human cultures, between familiar and alien, between colonialism and disengagement, between past and future, between dream and reality, which confront us on gable ends at every corner of our city (and during our childhood could be heard explosively and fatally intersecting at all hours).

But our local idiom is often sparse, even dour, rooted in an austere and divided Christian culture, pointing inwards and backwards rather than outwards and forwards: Heaney, Friel, MacNeice; C.S. Lewis, too. Ian McDonald has drawn from other wells: Joyce, Blake, Kinsella's *Táin*, Bradbury, Marquez – the last two most overtly in his first published novel, *Desolation Road* (1988), which mashed up *One Hundred Years of Solitude* with *The Martian Chronicles*. The Martian landscape is harsh, dry, hostile, unforgiving, but the prose of the tales told there can be warm, deep and fertile, a sign of things to come.

The Matter of Ireland has fed fantasy writing for centuries, perhaps even millennia. Revolutionary Irish nationalism in the early twentieth century was fueled by retellings of ancient Celtic myth into a more respectable Edwardian idiom. It's not an obvious match for science fiction, as opposed to fantasy. Bob Shaw, in the mainstream of sf of his time, dealt with the home province by largely ignoring it; James White occasionally invoked Irish settings (*The Dream Millennium*, *The Silent Stars Go By*), never all that close to home and never very comfortably.

However, Ian McDonald has avoided the obvious pitfalls of writing about Irish politics by attacking the subject from unexpected directions. *King of Morning, Queen of Day* (1991) is a twentieth century time-travel fantasy which then swerves into cyberpunk. *Hearts, Hands and Voices* (1992) moves Ulster to a tropical world where your dead remain with you. In *Sacrifice of Fools* (1996), alien migrants arrive in contemporary Belfast and upset the dynamics of local politics and thuggery. Less well-known to the sf community is his involvement with Northern Ireland's version of Sesame Street, *The Sesame Tree*, in 2008-2010, adapting our local situation to a completely different frame.

Perhaps Ian McDonald has now got Ireland out of his system. He is drawn to other places, other cultures, where the future is arriving in ways that we in Europe and North America do not fully comprehend: so we have seen him visit central Africa in *Chaga* (1995) and *Kirinyaga* (1997); India in *River of Gods* (2004); Brazil in *Brasyl* (2007); Turkey in *The Dervish House* (2010) – the last three of these all won the BSFA Award for Best Novel. Now he is looking farther outwards and forwards with *Luna: New Moon* (2015) and its sequel due this year, exploring dynastic and sexual politics among feuding lunar oligarchs. Ian McDonald's futures are positive, dangerous, ripe. You'll like them.



Ian McDonald

Photo:
Liza Groen Trombi

Next Book:
Luna: Wolf Moon.
October 2016

Nicholas Whyte works as a lobbyist in Brussels. He is originally from Belfast, and reads sf unashamedly.

David L. Clements

by Simon Bradshaw

I can pinpoint quite precisely my first meeting with Dave Clements. It was two days into my first term as an undergraduate at Imperial College, at the Freshers' Fair, as I wandered up to the Science Fiction Society stall. I can't remember exactly what the very enthusiastic chap in the ICSF t-shirt was saying, but his sales pitch must have worked because within a matter of weeks Dave had added me to his list of impressionable young undergraduates he'd lured in, and ICSF became the focus of my student social life for the next four years.

Dave was very much the leading light of ICSF at the time; just moving on from his BSc to his PhD he'd been heavily involved since time immemorial.[1] His time there saw ICSF move from a small club with a one-filing-cabinet library to a large student society with its own bookshelf-filled clubroom, thanks in no small part to his organisational and arm-twisting skills within the upper echelons of the student union. His postdoctoral career subsequently took him to Oxford, Paris, Munich and Cardiff before he returned to Imperial, where he is now a Senior Lecturer in the Astrophysics group. However, he still makes time to be actively involved in ICSF, and almost certainly holds the record for the number of times anyone's attended Picocon, its annual convention.

Dave's wider fannish involvement began with Conspiracy, the 1987 Worldcon in Brighton, and regular attendance at the London 'Tun' fan meeting. He quickly fell into con-running, joining the committee of Illumination, the 1992 Blackpool Eastercon, before helping run the science programme for Intersection, the 1995 Worldcon in

[1] In student terms, i.e. more than two years.

Glasgow. Dave has gone on to help organise the science programme for many subsequent Worldcons and he can take much credit for the high standard of science programming at such events over the last two decades. In particular, he has helped promote 'Tall Technical Tales', one of the most perennially popular science programme items.

As an extragalactic infrared astronomer, Dave's research stretches to the farthest edges of space and the early era of the cosmos. Much of it is carried out with space observatories, above the atmosphere that is so full of inconvenient water vapour[2] and which can be cooled to comfortable temperatures.[3] Lately he has been working with ESA's Herschel and Planck missions, and his lifelong enthusiasm for science communication led him to write *Seeing the Heat: from William Herschel to the Herschel Space Observatory*, a detailed but accessible guide to infrared astronomy.

Dave is one of those talented writers who spans fiction and fact. As well as dozens of scientific papers, he has a fast-growing list of sf short story credits to his name, including three appearances in **Analog**. It's a huge pleasure to see someone you've long known as a fan gain success as a pro and I'm delighted that Dave's fiction is seeing a wide and well-deserved audience.

David L. Clements
@davecl42
davecl.wordpress.com

Next Book:
Disturbed Universes.
April 2016

[2] Dave prefers water to be usefully employed in making beer, not getting in the way of his photons.
[3] i.e. as close to absolute zero as possible.

Art Show

This year we are going to have a very interesting Art Show. It may be small, but it certainly is full to the brim with many artists both well-known and new. We look forward to seeing you there.

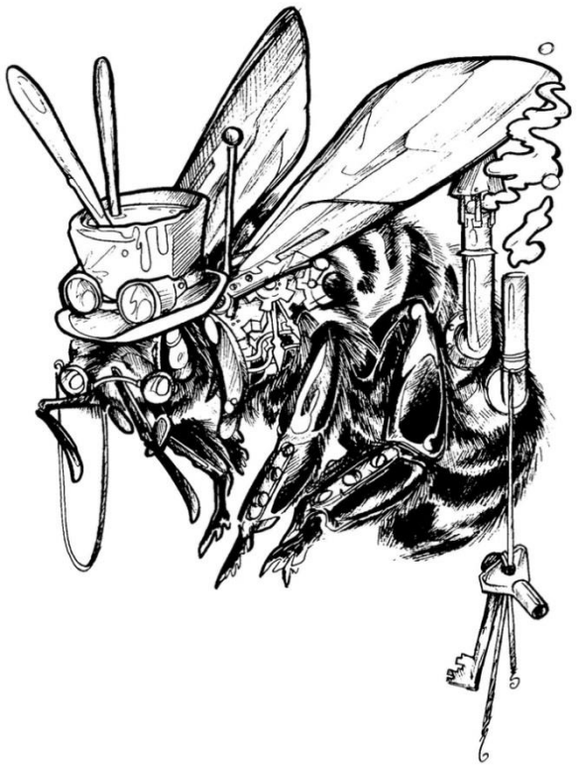
Opening times will be:
Friday: 15:00 - 18:00
Saturday: 10:00 - 18:00
Sunday: 10:00 - 11:30

It will then close to prepare for the auction which will start at 13:00 and should finish by 15:30. Buyers will be expected to pay for and collect what they have purchased between 16:00 and 18:00. Payment will be by credit card, cheque, cash and bank transfer. Any queries, please contact: artshow@mancunicon.org.uk

Exhibiting artists are:

Dawn Abigail
Andrew Bigwood
Ed Buckley
Jim Burns
Giulia DeCesare
Jackie Duckworth
Dave Hardy
Audrie St Ivy Johnson
Dominika Klimczak
Steph Morris
Tom Nanson
Sunila Sen-Gupta
Eira Short
Jane Stewart
Anne Sudworth
Danae Walker
Freda Warrington
Chris Baker
Clare Boothby
Jackie E Burns
Richard Counsell
Alligator Descartes
Megan Frank
Peter Harrow
Susan Jones
Lisa Konrad
Chris Moore
Keith Scaife
Claire Senior
SMS
Victoria Anne Stokes
David Wake
Margaret Walty
Richard Williams

Steampunk Mancunibee



by Steph Morris

Creative Memories

A glance caught in imagination's embrace,
Held in a moment of dreams and grace,
Wonder sparking within that place,
And those emotions that you thought
Lost and buried yet always sought,
To the fore are enticed and brought,
By images dazzling in their
Messages so free to share,
And if one should have a care,
Brought home for your delight,
Each day these feelings to ignite,
And flare in warmth just from the sight.

So enter now this wondrous world,
Watch creativity unfold,
And take today a special piece,
Love and care's sweet release,
To never have these feelings cease.

by Alexander Pardoe

Dealers / Fan Tables

This year the dealers will be located in two different rooms on the first floor, Deansgate and the combined Meeting Room 2-4, with the fan tables outside the meeting room.

Opening times will be:
Friday: 14:00 - 18:00
Saturday: 10:00 - 18:00
Sunday: 10:00 - 18:00
Monday: 10:00 - 15:00

All capacity for both the Dealers' Room and Fan Table area has been allotted. If you have any queries please contact: dealers@mancunicon.org.uk.

Childcare

Crèche Services

At Mancunicon there will be a crèche run by Rainbow Crèche Services, who were also the crèche provider at Dysprosium last year. Lydia and her team will be providing a safe and stimulating environment for children aged between birth and 8ish. They have lots of experience with babies, so you shouldn't feel nervous about leaving even the smallest baby with them. Also, the crèche can be used as a drop-in if you'd like somewhere private to feed/change or just put your small child down for a while. Additionally, members of her team have specialisation in dealing with different difficulties such as Autism, ADHD, hearing issues and the like. If your child is over 8 but you feel would benefit more from being in the crèche, the team are happy to take them in, particularly if they have a younger sibling whom they will miss.

If you wish to use the crèche, please email childcare@mancunicon.org.uk to ask for a booking form. The sessions that you sign up to on the form will not be cast in stone, it is just to allow Lydia to make sure that she has the correct number of staff on hand for the number of children present. In addition, Lydia and her team will offer an evening babysitting service for children of all ages at the cost of around £8.50 per hour. You can express your interest in evening babysitting on that form too. Her team will be happy to babysit either in your room, or in the crèche room.

The crèche will be open from between 13:45 - 18:45 on Friday, 09:45 - 12:45, and then 13:45 - 18:45 on Saturday and Sunday, and 09:45 - 12:45 and then 13:45 - 17:15 on Monday.
There is no charge for the use of the crèche.

Fans on the Run

Jim Mowatt gets active – sometimes for charity

There's a new cult in town and it wants you to gather in a park on a Saturday morning and move your legs rhythmically so as to propel you and fellow massed hordes forward in the same direction for 5 kilometres. Come one, come all. It doesn't matter if you are a confirmed couch potato or a leaping athlete. Everyone is welcome.

I first caught the parkrun[1] bug about 3 years ago and have been attending fairly regularly ever since. I've possibly got a little over ambitious now, having signed up to run the London Marathon to raise money for Save The Rhino. Douglas Adams[2] and the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Appreciation Society, ZZ9, first introduced me to Save The Rhino and brought to my attention just how close to extinction some of these glorious animals are.

I'd be thrilled if some of you folks reading this would pop along to my running blog at abitofrunning.com. That will explain how to donate to the charity and also show some pictures and video of some of the parkruns I've done in a rhino suit.

It's a joyous experience romping around a park on a Saturday morning on a 5K run with so many incredibly happy people. Parkrun seems to provide an opportunity for people to dump all the woes they have in their lives, just for a little while as they share this delightful experience. It was while attending Novacon 43 at the Park Inn at Nottingham that I realised that there was an opportunity to combine parkruns with science fiction cons. I

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[1] Small p, they insist upon it. I know not why.

[2] Founder patron of Save the Rhino International.

checked the lists and found that there was a parkrun only a mile away from the hotel. I got up reasonably early on Saturday morning and was soon trotting down the road. I arrived to find that fellow SF fan, Stephen Cain was also there and we ran the course together. Combining conventions and parkruns helps me to make the most of my Saturday at the con, boosting my energy and filling me with enthusiasm for the day ahead. I've also noticed more and more fans running in recent years so it's an opportunity to mix with them in a more unusual environment.

So, if I've piqued your interest here, then I would like to invite you along to a parkrun in Manchester during Mancunicon. The one called South Manchester parkrun at Platt Fields Park seems to be the closest to the con hotel at 2.6 miles. I'll be waiting outside the front doors of the Hilton Deansgate Hotel at 08:15 and plan a nice gentle trot to Platt Field Park at around a 12 minute mile pace (5mph). That should leave us plenty of time to get lost, go around in circles, be misdirected by the local nutcase and then stumble upon the right location. The run starts at 09:00.

If you wish to get your time officially recorded you'll need to register on the website, www.parkrun.org.uk/register. This will create a profile and you will be able to print out your barcode. Bring this barcode along with you to the parkrun. When you finish the run you will be handed a token showing in which position you finished (no, not necessarily a prone position). Then you take the token and your barcode to the scanning people and they will do the beeping thing to log your time into the database. It's simple technology and won't scan a phone screen, I'm afraid, so you will need to print it out. You do not need to do this if you just want run the course.

Meet me outside the Hilton at 08:15 or make your own way to Platt Fields Park to arrive before 09:00. Hope to see you there at the South Manchester parkrun, www.parkrun.org.uk/southmanchester at Mancunicon.

T-Shirts

We have one last run of Mancunicon t-shirts. Our t-shirt supplier is Fabrily via: fabrily.com/Mancunicon3. The last day for ordering is: Tuesday 8th March. The website has a countdown.

The design is by Alison Scott, and is based on the mosaics in Manchester Town Hall. Any profits will contribute to making the convention better.

TAFF

Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund

The 2016 race is fast reaching its exciting conclusion. Our two candidates, Anna Raftery and Wolf von Witting, are busily garnering their support and trying to persuade them to vote to send one of them to North America to attend MidAmeriCon2 and meet other fans and network until their socks drop off.

At Mancunicon there will be ballot forms and a ballot box in Operations. There is a minimum donation of £2 to vote but if you can afford more that would be very much appreciated. There will also be the Fan Funds Auction which is always a huge amount of fun, with lots of SF jollity and trivia on sale and you are certain to find that remarkable something. Check the programme for details of when and where this will take place.

More information about TAFF is available at taff.org.uk

BSFA Awards

Members of Eastercon get to vote in the BSFA Awards.
This year's shortlisted nominees are:

Best Novel:

Dave Hutchinson: *Europe at Midnight*, Solaris
Chris Beckett: *Mother of Eden*, Corvus
Aliette de Bodard: *The House of Shattered Wings*, Gollancz
Ian McDonald: *Luna: New Moon*, Gollancz
Justina Robson: *Glorious Angels*, Gollancz

Best Short Story:

Aliette de Bodard: *Three Cups of Grief, by Starlight*, **Clarkesworld** 100
Paul Cornell: *Witches of Lychford*, Tor.com
Jeff Noon: *No Rez*, **Interzone** 260
Nnedi Okorafor, *Binti*, Tor.com
Gareth L. Powell: *Ride the Blue Horse*, Matter

Best Non-Fiction:

Nina Allan: *Time Pieces: Doctor Change or Doctor Die*, **Interzone** 261
Alisa Krasnostein and Alexandra Pierce: *Letters to Tiptree*, Twelfth Planet Press
Jonathan McCalmont: *What Price Your Critical Agency*, Ruthless Culture.
Adam Roberts: *Rave and Let Die: The SF and Fantasy of 2014*, Steel Quill Books
Jeff Vandermeer: *From Annihilation to Acceptance: a writer's surreal journey*, **The Atlantic**, January 2015

Best Artwork:

Jim Burns, Cover of *Pelquin's Comet*, NewCon Press
Vincent Sammy: *Songbird*, **Interzone** 257
Sarah Anne Langton: Cover of *Jews Versus Zombies*, Jurassic London
Voting details: www.bsfa.co.uk/bsfa-2015-awards-voting-form

The Future of Eastercon

At almost every Eastercon now, we get together for a discussion and vote on bids for the convention in another two years (or sometimes, as happened with Mancunicon, the next year). At the 2015 Eastercon, there was also a panel item which began to look further ahead – considering some of the issues that come up for the fans who run each year's con, and whether we need to do more together to help ensure that Eastercons continue.

Since then, there's been a questionnaire (which is open until the end of February, if you haven't yet contributed your views), hosted on a blog where those who are interested can contribute more to the discussion: eastercon.wordpress.com.

The goal was to report back and continue the discussion this year – to consider the challenges and concerns and potential changes that people have identified, understand more about the options that would help with all that, and agree who will do what next.

Some interim feedback at Novacon has already gathered some more volunteers who are interested in tackling some of the issues emerging (thank you). So do come along on Sunday at Mancunicon for the bid session and a broader discussion on the future and how we can make it happen. What could be more science fictional than that?

Art Credits

Cover: Collage by Alison Scott; images courtesy of NASA/JPL-Caltech / Steampunk Bee: Steph Morris / Bee Fillos: Sue Mason / Other Fillo: D. West.

Committee / Contacts

Role	Person	@mancunicon.org.uk
Chair & Programme	Pat McMurray	chair programme
Logistics & Guest Liaison	DC	guests
Treasurer	David Cooper	treasurer
Membership	Steve Lawson	membership
Hotel Liaison	Fiona Scarlett	hotel
Volunteers & Guest Liaison	Melica Smith	volunteers
IT Magic	Tommy Wareing	
The Ambassador	Dave Lally	

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@Mancunicon
Hashtags: #eastercon and #mancunicon

YOUR TO DO LIST

If you are not a member of the convention then join. ☐
Get your friends to join. ☐
Volunteer. ☐
Check you know where you are staying. ☐
Check your travel arrangements. ☐
Order your pizza for Friday night. ☐
Let us know your access needs (if any). ☐
Tell us if you want childcare. ☐
Work on your costume. ☐
Fill in the Future of Eastercon questionnaire. ☐
Tell Dave Lally if you want to go to Jodrell Bank. ☐
Tick all the boxes above and get a sense of achievement ☐

Novacon 46

11th-13th November 2016

The annual convention of the Birmingham Science Fiction Group

Guest of Honour: Juliet E McKenna

www.novacon.org
www.julietemckenna.com

www.shorelineofinfinity.com

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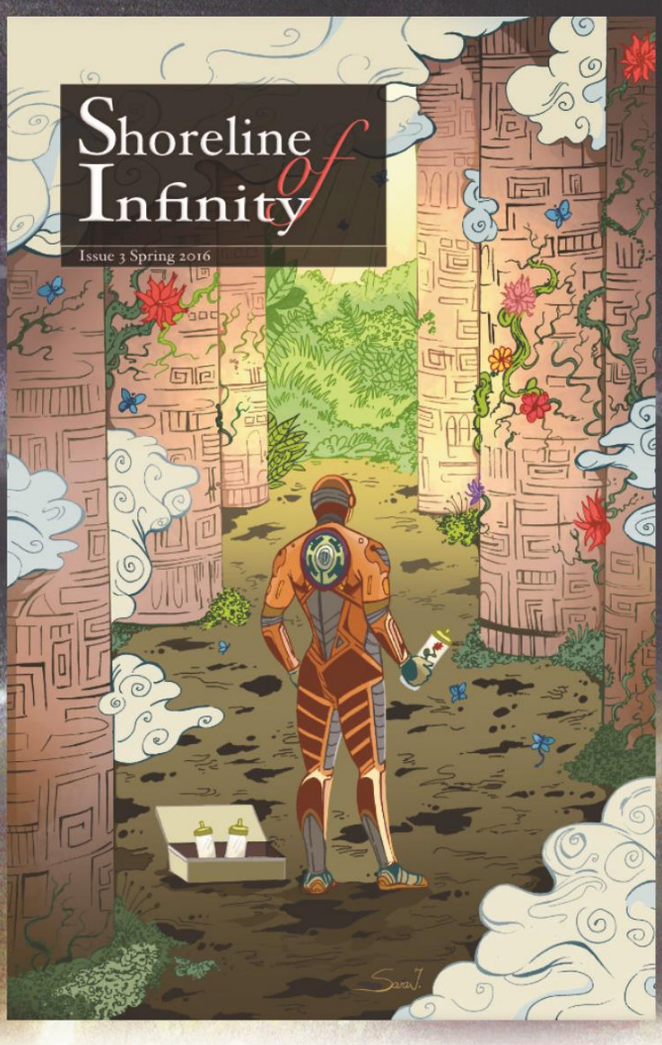

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Meet the Shoreline team at Mancunicon